

BALTIMORE EVENING SUN
18 November 1980

Found it well organized, competent

A Morgan professor has a fling with the CIA

By Gerald Turner

ON BEING notified that I was selected to spend a summer working for the CIA, I was filled with great anticipation.

I knew, however, that the CIA has not always been looked upon favorably by all segments of the population. Some of my friends felt that the CIA did not have a good reputation and suggested that I not involve myself with it. Others saw this as a great experience to be associated with one of the highest-ranking governmental agencies. I felt honored to have been chosen and accepted my assignment enthusiastically.

The opportunity to work for the CIA came as part of the summer fellowship program of the National Urban League, an organization whose purpose is to promote equal opportunity for all citizens. This is one of the many programs of this organization that places professors at predominantly black colleges into projects with industry and government during the summer months. The basic objective of the summer fellowship program is to enhance the expertise of faculty and administrators, thereby enabling them to better prepare students for the challenges of the corporate and governmental worlds.

I had been chosen to participate in five summer fellowship programs. In 1975, I was a fellow at the IBM Corporation in New York City. The following year I was employed by the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory of the University of California in Livermore, California, and then by the Social Security Administration in Baltimore in 1977. After completing my master of administrative science degree at Johns Hopkins University, I returned to the summer program as a fellow at the Western Electric Company in Baltimore in 1979. In September 1979 I began a new position as

assistant professor in the School of Business at Morgan State University. Subsequently, I was chosen to participate in the CIA's initial involvement in the Summer Fellowship Program.

I was overwhelmed at the security precautions when I began my duties with the Information Systems Security Group. The many briefings on security left me feeling that it would be difficult to live up to the expectations of the CIA. The briefings, however, made me more aware of my actions at work and helped give me the necessary discipline for being a member of the agency.

The chief of Information Systems Security greeted me warmly and assigned me to three major tasks for the summer of 1980. I was quite pleased at the challenging nature of my assignments. My first was to evaluate and recommend effective techniques for improving computer security requirements for major contract proposals. Next, I was to develop various master's degree programs in computer science, management information systems, and information technology for new information security officers.

My last task was to develop basic computer security courses which give information security officers the necessary computer background to maximize security requirements for automated data processing systems. These tasks allowed me to utilize the technical background I received while working as a computer programmer at General Electric and Bendix, as well as the skills I have acquired as an instructor.

The assignments on which I worked resulted in specific objectives. They are:

1. To write a book entitled "Information System Security — The Wave of the Future" — tentative publication date, June, 1981.
2. To expose Morgan State University's business, computer, and accounting students to the diverse career opportunities at the CIA.
3. To develop more meaningful faculty rapport with high-level officials at the CIA.
4. To actively recruit excellent minority candidates for diverse career opportunities at the CIA.

As an insider, I view the CIA as a well organized, competent organization whose goal is to develop a high level of security for the United States. The director, the deputy director, and the chiefs of various divisions were totally committed to doing an excellent job for the protection of this country.

The CIA is unquestionably an elite governmental organization. My impression was that only the best qualified applicants with exceptional talents in technology, political science, economics, computer mathematics, physics, administration, personnel, security, foreign languages and education would have a chance to become members of the CIA. The CIA certainly offers a wide variety of career paths for those individuals who can pass its rigorous employment requirements.

I feel that the summer fellowship experience with the CIA has been most rewarding. Not only has it been an excellent work experience, but I have felt genuinely accepted and motivated by my superiors and the co-workers with whom I came in contact. There is a degree of professionalism at the CIA that I have rarely found in any of the other four summer fellowship programs in which I have participated. My supervisor made me feel as though I had a worthwhile contribution to make to the organization and encouraged me in all of my endeavors. I appreciate the opportunity to have worked with the best.

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